

Torrance, California
October 30, 1944

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Monday, October 30, 1944, at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. Absent: Councilmen: Cucci.

Being an adjourned meeting, the regular order of business was dispensed with.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1696

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF TORRANCE, ACCEPTING BIDS FOR CERTAIN
TAX DEEDED LANDS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE,
AND INSTRUCTING THE CITY CLERK TO APPLY TO
LOS ANGELES COUNTY FOR SUCH TAX DEEDS.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1696 be adopted. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett announced that on October 19, 1944, a Petition and Referendum was filed in his office; that on October 25, 1944, he went to the office of the Registrar of Voters and checked each name and found that said Referendum Petition contained the signatures of 479 qualified electors of the City of Torrance.

Mayor Tolson stated that the City Attorney had been asked for an opinion of this Referendum Petition, and inquired of Clerk Bartlett whether it had been received.

Clerk Bartlett replied that it had been received, and proceeded to read same; it being the opinion of the City Attorney that the Referendum Petition, as filed, was invalid.

Councilman Gilbert stated that Ordinance No. 360 automatically went into effect as of midnight, October 19, 1944.

A communication was read from Mr. Charles F. Koors, submitting an offer for the purchase of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, in the sum of \$20,000.00; and agreeing to assume the obligations of the City for the purchase of six new busses from the Crown Body and Coach Corporation; and to provide the City of Torrance with an efficient and satisfactory bus service.

Councilman Gilbert said he believed the Council knew how he feels about selling the Bus Lines, as he had previously expressed his views on this subject.

Councilman Powell said he thought the entire membership of the Council should be present when they take Mr. Koor's offer under consideration, and moved that the communication be referred to the Council for further consideration, and that Mr. Koors be notified as soon as a meeting can be arranged, of the entire Board, for consideration of his offer.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that the City Auditor be requested to attend this meeting; or possibly that he be employed as an appraiser of the Bus Lines, and asked Councilman Powell if this would be agreeable to him; whereupon Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Clerk be authorized to ask the Auditor, Mr. Cotton, if he would act in the capacity of an appraiser for the Municipal Bus Lines, and to obtain his charges for this service.

The Mayor announced that there were two motions before the house and no seconds offered for either one.

Councilman Hitchcock then withdrew his motion.

Councilman Powell stated that Mr. Koors should be given an answer as soon as possible, and that it was agreeable with him to have Mr. Cotton sit in on the meeting in an advisory capacity, in conjunction with the Board; and suggested that the meeting be called for 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon, at a date to be agreed upon.

After discussion, the date for this meeting was tentatively set for Monday, November 6, 1944; whereupon Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Auditor, Mr. Cotton, be requested to attend a meeting of the City Council at 2:00 P.M. November 6, 1944. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the expenditure of \$325.00 be authorized for the purchase of new frame, tracks, rollers and plates for repairs to the Hough Loader, in the Street Department. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Hitchcock stated that he had a recommendation from the City Engineer that the State Highway Department be requested to furnish an inspector at the asphalt plant at Roscoe, during paving operations on Torrance Boulevard; whereupon Councilman Hitchcock moved that \$250.00 be appropriated, and a check sent to the State Highway Department to defray the expenses of such an inspector. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Mayor be authorized to attend a meeting of the Airline Hearing of the Federal Government, in San Francisco, during the first week in November, with expenses paid. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Lynch requested that the Council hold an open hearing in regard to the possible sale of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines; stating that the people are vitally interested in the bus system and thought they should be given an opportunity to say whether the Bus Line should be disposed of or not.

Mayor Tolson advised Mr. Lynch that no definite action would be taken before the next regular meeting of the Council, at which time the people would have an opportunity to be heard.

Mr. Chas. Elman, of Los Angeles, endorsed Mr. Lynch's statement that the public should be given to have something to say about the bus system.

Mr. Judge addressed the Council regarding the opinion rendered by the City Attorney, to the effect that the Referendum Petition was invalid; stating that his Attorney informed him that the Petition was valid and perfectly legal, and inquired what action the Council proposed to take.

Councilman Gilbert stated that the Ordinance took effect at midnight, October 19, 1944.

Mr. Judge advised that they intended to continue their operations and that they would hold the Council responsible for any action taken against them.

Mr. Judge said it was his understanding that the City Clerk is required to notify the petitioners of the filing of the petition within ten days of the date of filing; that he has certified the petition; this being in accordance with the requirements of the State Election Code.

Attorney McCall advised Mr. Judge that the City Clerk read his certificate this evening.

Mr. Judge said this was not within the required ten days.

Mr. Magore, of the Longren Aircraft Company, addressed the Council, stating that he was formerly Vice-President of the White Motor Company, on the Pacific Coast, and that in his opinion the City would be much better off to sell the Bus Lines, as the experience of most communities has been that they get better service from privately owned bus companies; and he thought the offer made by Mr. Koors, of \$20,000.00 was a very fair one.

Mr. O. L. Elder stated that he was not in favor of the City selling the Bus Lines, and he believed the bus lines could be operated successfully.

Mr. Lynch stated that he had personally asked Mr. Magore to appear before the Council and give them his views in regard to the bus system, as he was a man thoroughly qualified, through his previous experience with bus transportation; and said he hoped the citizens of Torrance would consider this.

Mr. Miller said he believed the citizens of Torrance should be given all the facts and figures relating to the operation of the bus lines from the beginning of its operations; so everybody will know what has been going on; also that they should be invited to come in and read the report from the Insurance Company.

Mr. Stanley expressed himself as being opposed to the sale of the Bus Lines, and said he believed it could be made a paying proposition if it was run on a strictly business basis.

Mr. Miller said it was his belief that when this war boom is over and the people can get all the gas they want, they will ride in their own cars, and suggested that everyone study the matter carefully, with an open mind.

Councilman Powell stated that the City has been practically forced to go into the transportation business in order to get the people in and out of Torrance; and despite the adverse conditions under which the bus system was started he did not think it had made a bad showing. He further stated that he intended to take everything into consideration, and if the price is right, and it will relieve the headaches of the community and a guarantee is given that the bus lines will continue to operate in an efficient manner he was open for any reasonable proposition, but he did not intend to give the bus system away.

Some further discussion followed, between Mr. Judge and the City Attorney, as to the validity of the Referendum Petition, and Attorney McCall advised Mr. Judge to submit his written opinion to his attorneys to read over, and he would then be glad to discuss the matter with his attorneys.

At 8:50 P.M., on motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Powell, the meeting adjourned.

A. H. B. B. B.
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

H. H. B. B.
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE